A SYNOPSIS ON

Role of Public libraries in modern rural society in western Maharashtra With special reference to Pune district

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INDEX

Sr. No.	Title	Page No.
1.	Introduction	1
2.	The Review of Literature	4
3.	Significance of the Study	5
4.	Objectives of the Study	5
5.	Hypotheses of Study	5
6.	Research Methodology	6
7.	Scope and Limitations of the Study	7
8.	Scheme of the Chapter and Study Schedule	8
9.	Reference	9

1. Introduction:

A public library is a good component of the library system, called "the people's university" and the "weapon of democracy" to educate the public. Library is a social, informal, academic institution in our society. Society changes from under developmental to developmental stage. The libraries have played an important part in the social, political, economic and cultural development of the society. These had a significant role in the preservation and advancement of culture, informal and self-education, and the reading for freedom. It is most important for the awareness of the general people.Information plays a vital role in every aspect of life of human being across the globe. In today's world, knowledge-based information is increasingly playing an important role in every aspect of development process. In this modern era, with an extensive application of technology, Library is become a significant source of information on a number of subjects, areas, fields, etc.

Role of Public Library in the Socio-cultural Development: - The purpose of a library in modern society is to educate the community in the widest sense. Society consists of various groups of community belonging to one or other social group, such as shopkeepers, businesspersons, technicians, bureaucrats, clerks, students, educationists, teachers, engineers, doctor, intellectuals, mechanics, agriculturists, farmers, labors, etc. The interest of knowledge of these different groups of people within the society is very much varied according to their human needs. The primary role of public library, such as State Library, District Library, Block Library, Tahsil Library, Village Library and others is to provide the best information facilities to all those library users in the community. Library and society are interlinked and interdependent. Society without libraries has no significance, and a library without society has no origin it is regarded as ‘social institution’, a product of society for its cultural advancement.

a) **The Role of Libraries in Educational Development**:-Education has been defined as a complex of social processes of acquiring knowledge and experience, formally or otherwise. The library enables the individual to obtain spiritual, inspirational, and recreational activity through reading, and therefore the opportunity of interacting with the society’s wealth and accumulated knowledge. The library can be seen as an extension of education. Library services are needed to keep the skills that have been acquired through literacy classes alive by the provision of good literature. If education is to have a greater share in the moulding and building of a happier individual and a better society, the providers of education must go further than their roles as literacy facilitators to a more practical role of providing libraries for sustaining the newly acquired skills of adult learners. Organizing a library to aid education calls for an atmosphere of friendliness and a useful collection.

b) **Public Library System in the State: -** Maharashtra has a rich library tradition. Native general libraries have come-up in good number all over the state in 19th and early 20th century. The Library development in Maharashtra is based on the recommendations of a Fyzee Committee, appointed by the then Government of Bombay province, for the development of libraries in the

State. After the independence, the then Government of Bombay province decided for development of public libraries to implement the recommendations of the FyzeeCommittee. The Committee also recommended the establishment of one State Central Library at Mumbai and one Regional Library at Pune.The committee further recommended that one District Library and one Taluka Library at each district and all places should be recognized. The Asiatic Society handed over the Central Library to be run as a full-fledged State Central Library, by the Government of Maharashtra. In a phased manner the District Libraries, functioning under private managements are being merged into the Public Library System. Under the Act, there is a fully-fledged Directorate of Public Libraries to manage the system. Presently there are 1 State Central Library, 6 divisional Libraries, 1 reference library and 30 district libraries run by the Government besides 10730Aided Libraries.

c) **Demography of Pune District**: -Pune District is situated in Maharashtra State of India. Pune city is the district headquarters. In 2011 census, the district has 14 tahsils, 35 towns and 1877 villages (including 25 uninhabited villages) In the Pune population for 2011 census, 60.99 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 5,751,182 people, lives in urban areas of which males are 3,020,665 and females are 2,730,517. Sex Ratio in urban region of Pune district. Pune is the administrative capital of Pune district and the seventh Metro city of India. Today Pune is known for its educational facilities, having more than a hundred educational institutes and ten universities. In Pune many information technology and automotive companies setting up factories in Pune district. Additionally, Pune city is well known for various cultural activities like Classical Music, Sports, Literature, Foreign language learning and Administrative, Economics, Social Science studies. These activities and job opportunities attract migrants and students from all over India.

d) **Education History of Pune:** - Pune's education history has been influenced by LokamanyaBalGangadharTilak and his other colleagues such as V. K. Chiplunkar, M.B. Namjoshi, G.G. Agarkar, N.C. Kelkar, V.S. Apte and other great people like M.G. Ranade, JyotibaPhule, G.K. Gokhale, Lokhitvadi and R.G. Bhandarkar. Tilak played a major role in the city's development. He started the newspaper called Kesari and Maratha in the year 1881. He also established Fergusson College in 1885 and the New English School in 1880.

Acharya BalhastriJambhekar was the first reformer in Maharashtra.He started the first Marathi newspaper, Weekly Darpan in 1832 and the first Marathi magazine, 'Digdarshan', in 1840. Thus, he became the pioneer of the Marathi Press media. He demanded schools for technical education along with scientific books, because without which, he believed, the scientific knowledge could not be used for the material progress of the society.

LokhitwadiGopalHariDeshmukh: He popularly known as 'Lokhitwadi', in his 'Shatapatre" a bunch of hundred letters published in 'Prabhakar', a weekly newspaper,

f. **Public Library system in Pune District: -** Public libraries have now become an essential part of the town. They are also known as circulating libraries and as the name suggests, are easily accessible by the regular public. Public libraries, in general, offer a wide range of reading material that can cater to all ages' groups and communities. Pune Nagar VachanMandir is the first public library in Pune. In 1818, the end of Peshwa regime & the beginning of British East India Company, up to 1860 was a period of twilight & transition in all aspects of society .economics, trade& commerce, employment, education, social hierarchy etc. This induced a need amongst the new rulers i.e. British Administration to induct modern education & modern governance. As a result, Sir George Clark, the Governor of Bombay ordered the Judge Henry Braun of Bombay to establish a library at Poona to benefit the natives. Hence with the help of eminent scholars & gentlemen of social recognition from Poona established a library named Poona Native General Library at Budhwar Wada of Peshwas on 7th February,1848 i.e.

Directorate of Libraries is separate department established by government of Maharashtra and higher education department. Directorates of Libraries have divided them in seven divisions for smooth functioning of Public library. Sindhudurga Division, Amravati Division, Aurangabad Division, Nagpur Division, Nashik Division, Mumbai Division, Pune Division. Allthese divisions coordinate with all district, taluka, village, town public libraries. Under Pune Public Library division, five districts are cover, Pune, Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, and Solapur. Pune is important part of Public library movement. All five divisions' public libraries come under Pune division. In Pune district,there are fourteen tahisl.All fourteen tahisl are 487 A, B, C, D types of Public library. These public librariesareworking for Social Cultural and education development.

2. Review of Literature

1.IntekhabAlam(2015) Public libraries being social institutions make an impact on the communities they serve and the value of public libraries is assessed by measuring how well they meet the needs of their communities. The benefits that users gain by using library services can be assessed in terms of knowledge gained, higher information literacy, higher academic and professional success, increase in individual well-being and social inclusion. This paper is based on a case study conducted in a century-old ARS Inamdar Public Library, Pune to measure its social value for the community. The data was collected using two different questionnaires from a sample of 160 users and 110 non-users. The result shows that the library is valuable for most of the users as it helped them to keep up to date, to improve their information seeking skills and in their professional development. The library is quite a safe and calm place for studying and most of the users are getting benefits of the same. The non-users group acknowledged that the public library is playing important role in increased quality of life of the community served by it.

2. **JawaharlalLal.(2018)**Generally, a library is a place where individuals access information and ideas. Access to information is very crucial; it accelerates the level of individual advancement as well as corporate educational development. Information is treated as an economic resource or as a catalyst to development and for making good decision. Information society is a society in which the quality of life as well as prospects for social change and economic development depends upon access to information to meet their needs and requirements. Public libraries are an important entity in local communities, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities. They are more than shelves of books. Public libraries offer an ever-changing range of cultural resources for the community, and they have become a type of social and cultural institution. This article discusses the broadly accepted conceptualization of information for development of social and cultural activities in people of rural areas by providing the information at all the levels necessary for that. In turn, it links between community development, empowerment and rural public library usage in India.
3. **Behera&Parida, (2014)**In their study discussed the information need of different rural communities and the impact of rural libraries in achieving their socio-economic development and found that the rural libraries are useful in satisfying the information needs of different communities in their day-to-daylife.
4. **Lamani, Talawar and Kumbar, (2014)**examines the present status of District Centrallibrary, Dharwad and the role of this public library as Community Information Centre in contributing towards community development by fulfilling the information requirements of community. They found that the District Central Library, Dharwad failed in providing community information service to their surrounding community members because the resources in this center is not adequate to fulfill the needs and requirements of the different community groups.
5. **Adewusi, (2013)**In his study discussed the impact of community information centres on community development in four communities in Nigeria employing survey research method using mainly questionnaire among teachers, traders, farmers, fish sellers, civil servants, students and others as respondents. The results of study are that the availability of community information services were rare in the communities and the communities yearn for provision of well stocked community information centers with a view to empowering, changing and transforming their life socially, economically, technologically, educationally and politically for the betterment.

3. Significance of the study:

This study intends to examine and analyze the role of Public Library in development of modern ruralsociety. Researcher wants to assess the resourcefulness of available libraries and their contribution and role in modern rural society inselected villages of Pune District. According to review of literature, very less research has taken place in this field on such comprehensive basis.

4. Objectives of the study:

The broader objectives of the study are as under:

1. To find out of the role of public libraries in modern rural society.
2. To study the types of collection in Public libraries in Pune district.
3. To study the demand of society from public libraries by present rural society in Pune district.
4. To study the services provided by public libraries for social, economic, cultural and educational development of modern rural society.
5. To give the suggestions according to social needs for improving such public libraries.

5. Hypotheses of the study:

To pursue the proposed study the following hypotheses are framed:

H.1 Public libraries play a significant role in socio-cultural and educationaldevelopment in society.

H.2 Public libraries have useful collection of books and other resources to fulfil the current and updated requirement of modern rural society

H.3 CurrentPublic LibraryInfrastructure is not sufficient to fulfill this need of rural area.

H.4 There is a positive significant association between rural society and publicLibraries.

6. Research Methodology:

Descriptive research methodology in this method available tools and technique as follows- survey, interview, questionnaire, record verification, this tools is useful for description characteristics by the large population. The books and other literature on the subject will be referred. The interview of library staff and other stakeholder of society.Public Library database will be studied to know the growth and status of public library in Pune district. Survey and feedbacks will be taken from persons who was use the public library.

a. Data Collection and the Data Source:

The data required for this research is as follows:

- **Primary Data:** Primary data is the fresh data collected from original sources of any system to help solve a problem or take advantage of an opportunity make any conclusion after its careful investigation. In this research, primary data willbe collected through self-designed questionnaire from society, which includes villagers, famers, and students, businesspersons and professional and others.
- **Secondary Data:** The required secondary data is proposed to collect from various publications like journals, Magazines, books, Government report of various institutes and news in the newspapers regarding the socio-cultural and educational development and the Public libraries.

b. Research Design: This research study is 'Descriptive' and 'Analytical'.

a) **Nature of the Study:** This research is Quantitative and Qualitative in nature.

b) **Research Techniques:** Survey and Analysis Method.

c) **Contact Method:**Personal interviews, distribution, and collection of questionnaire from the stakeholders.

c. Research Instruments:

a) **Questionnaire:**The separate questionnaires will be prepared and structured to collect information.

b) **Visits &Survey:** Survey will be conducted in selected District Public Libraries from research activity point of view.

d. Sampling Plan:

1. **Universe/population:** Stack holder of public library and other member of society.
2. **Sampling Element:** The sampling element consists of Villagers, Famers, and Students, businesspersons and professional and others.
3. **Sampling Method:** Stratified Random Sampling.
4. **Statistical Techniques:** The t-test, correlation analysis, and other suitable statistical tools will be used depending upon the processing requirement of the collected data.
5. **Sample size:** There are total 487 public libraries in Pune District out of which researcher wants to select 30% libraries from each class i.e. A, B, C, D and 10 stakeholders from each library consisting of villagers, famers, students, businesspersons professionalsand others.

Table 1:**The category wise List of Public Libraryin Pune District and the sample sizeis given below:**

Sr. No	Taluka	A Grade Library	B Grade Library	C Grade Library	D Grade Library	Total Library
1.	Ambegaon	02	27	04	07	40
2.	Indapur	02	02	07	47	58
3.	Khed	01	11	12	21	45
4.	Junnar	01	19	01	10	31
5.	Daund	01	02	04	14	21
6.	Pune city.	14	24	23	29	90
7.	Purandhar	00	01	03	18	22
8.	Baramati	02	04	06	20	32
9.	Bhor	01	02	02	06	11

10.	Mavai	01	03	01	05	10
11.	Mulshi	00	01	01	09	11
12.	Velhe	00	02	03	12	17
13.	Shirur;	00	19	06	13	38
14.	Haveli	02	07	09	43	61
Total no of public Libraries in Pune District		**27**	**124**	**82**	**254**	**487**
Selected Sample Size 30% from each category from Librarians		**9**	**37**	**25**	**75**	**146**
10 stakeholders from each library comprised of Villagers, Famers, Students, businessmen and professional		**90**	**370**	**250**	**750**	**1460**
Total Sample Size from all categories						**1606**

(Source: https://dol.maharashtra.gov.in/en/public_library_system_in_the_state 25./10/2019)

The total proposed respondents in this research is **1606** from all categories.

7. Scope and Limitations of the Study:

a. **Geographical Scope:** this study is proposed to be conducted for Pune district in Maharashtra.

b. **Topical Scope:** the focus of study is on role of Public libraries and modern information science in upgrading the society.

c. **Analytical Scope:** the data collected from selected villages will be analyzed to test and fulfill the objectives and hypothesis.

d. **Functional Scope:** This study proposes to analyze the knowledge requirement and development of a working model.

8. Scheme of the Chapter and Study Schedule:

Sr. No.	Chapters
I	**Chapter I – Introduction** This chapter will include demographical information of public library system in Western Maharashtra -Pune district. It will cover the need of information literacy of rural society. This chapter will throw a light on Research Methodology andevery aspect of research pertaining to selected topic such as sampling details, sampling methods, data collection, and statistical techniques opted for this study.
II	**Chapter II – Review of Literature** This chapter will include the review of earlier research carried on this topic with reference to Pune district, Maharashtra state, India and abroad conducted by various scholars.
III	**Chapter IV – Profile of Public Library in Pune district** In this chapter, the detailed profile of Public Libraries in Pune districts.
IV	**Chapter V – Data Analysis and Interpretation** This chapter will cover the analysis of collected data from various primary and secondary sources and its interpretation using graphs, tables, charts and appropriate statistical tools and the interpretation of the same.
V	**Chapter VI – Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions** This chapter will include the separate set of findings, conclusions, suggestions and recommendations to be made the basis of data analysis and findings.
	References
	Appendix

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